



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS, 2ND INFANTRY DIVISION  
UNIT #15041  
APO AP 96258-5041

EAID-CG

18 JUL 2006

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Policy Letter #9, Suicide Prevention

1. This is a new policy, effective immediately. It remains in effect until rescinded or superseded.
2. References:
  - a. DoD Directive 6490.1, Mental Health Evaluations of Members of the Armed Forces, 1 October 1997.
  - b. DoD Instruction 6490.4, Requirement for Mental Health Evaluations of Members of the Armed Forces, 28 August 1997.
  - c. DoD Directive 6200.4, Force Health Protection, 9 October 2004.
  - d. USFK Reg 600-30, Suicide Prevention Program, 19 January 1994.
  - e. DA Pam 600-24, Prevention and Psychological Autopsy, 30 September 1988.
  - f. USFK Command Policy Letter #9, Suicide Prevention, 20 June 2006.
3. This policy applies to all 2ID military personnel and family members.
4. Suicide is an irreversible decision that horrifically affects the individual's family, friends, associates, and unit. This tragic and traumatic loss disrupts unit cohesion and weakens unit morale. We can prevent this needless and tragic loss by learning to recognize suicide warning signs and by taking immediate action to ensure that everyone exhibiting suicidal signs gets help. Suicide prevention is the responsibility of every Soldier and civilian living and working in 2ID. All military and civilian leaders must learn to recognize and respond to suicidal behavior.
5. Commanders are responsible for ensuring that suicide awareness and prevention training is conducted for all 2ID military personnel at least annually, documenting that training is in accordance with Army regulations. Commanders should take full advantage of emergent approaches to suicide prevention and training such as the Army Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST). Intensive training programs for selected unit personnel provide skills for early recognition and intervention of suicidal

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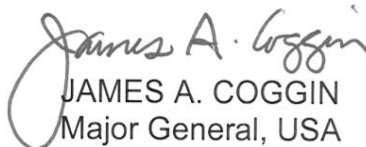
behavior, and can effectively multiply the command's eyes and ears. Unit chaplains and ministry teams also provide a great resource for commanders in recognizing potential suicidal behavior, as well as in leading/providing suicide prevention training.

6. When recognizing that a Soldier is showing signs of thoughts or behaviors associated with suicide, the commander will promptly refer the Soldier to the servicing mental-health agency. Before taking this referral step, commanders must consult with their mental-health provider to ensure that their actions are consistent with appropriate policies, to include mental health referral procedures outlined in DoD Instruction 6490.4, *Requirements for Mental Health Evaluations of Members of the Armed Forces*. Once a Soldier is referred, the commander will ensure that the individual shows up for all scheduled appointments. The mental-health agency treating the Soldier will then keep the commander informed of the Soldier's status, as appropriate and within the limitations of the Privacy Act and licensing requirements for mental-health providers. Upon release from a physician's direct care, leaders in the Soldier's chain of command must be particularly attentive to the Soldier's needs. This is a high risk period for the individual, and requires that leaders show compassion and understanding.

7. Area and installation commanders in 2ID are responsible for providing community support services to installation and tenant activity Soldiers, civilian personnel, and their families that encompass suicide prevention, education, and response/treatment.

8. I charge each of you to become personally involved in preventing suicide, and I expect leaders at every level to ensure that people who need help get it and get it fast. I further challenge you to remove the stigma attached to seeking mental health services. The vigilance of unit leaders, chaplains, and medical personnel is key to early detection of suicide risk. As suicide prevention directly contributes to our Soldiers, this program has my complete support. I expect it to have yours, as well.

9. Questions regarding this policy should be directed to the 2ID Chaplain's Office, DSN 732-6653.

  
JAMES A. COGGIN  
Major General, USA  
Commanding

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